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Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

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and
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The Capitol Clarion is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

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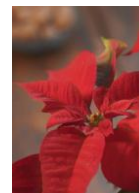
Bill Geach, Eternal Editor

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month**. Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at:
mdennis1@att.net

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

President's Message

By Gary Stonehouse



'Tis the season and happy holidays! Before getting down to business, I hope you have taken the opportunity to attend at least one of the daily holiday music performances in the Capitol rotunda. They are every day through the 23rd, usually starting at 11 am. All sorts of groups are included, bell ringers, a women's banjo band, and on Saturday the 22nd at 1 PM, the Capitol Volunteers Association singers. Quite a group! Our performance is a sing along. Come join us!

At its December meeting, your Board of Directors took a couple of actions getting ready for the New Year. They adopted a budget for 2013 that reflects the solvency of the association. We have a healthy balance sheet and a positive cash flow this year. We do not, however, have a clear plan for investing the funds to assist the Capitol Museum in a way that is consistent with our charter. Thus, the Board decided to have the current board meet with the new board in February to discuss a long-range plan.

Since my comments a couple of months ago about problems with historic room security, ("I'm not the sheriff"), several of you have told me that you would like more training on the room rules and generally would prefer less flexibility. I think this discussion will take a while to work through. The goal should be a simple set of rules that we all understand and respect.

Alas, the New Year marks the end of the golden term of the Stonehouse presidency. I have come to understand that our organization has a wonderful internal infrastructure that just keeps on going...hats get made, recruits get recruited and trained, the WID does its thing, books get purchased and sold, and Marti publishes our newsletter. Thanks to all of you. I guess I missed the iceberg.

~Gary

CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

December 2012

By Patty Wood



2012 Board of Directors

Gary Stonehouse	President
Diane Rich	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Patty Wood	Secretary
Leslie Cooper	Member
David Keck	Member
Alex King	Member
Marita Martin	Member
Marilyn Thompson	Member

TREASURERS' REPORT: **Bob Dennis** distributed the following: 1) a report detailing 11 month actual expenses and revenue versus 2012 budget; 2) a summary of insurance coverage as of December 4, 2012 that shows CSCMVA is well-covered, and 3) copies of the 2013 Budget Worksheet. The following changes were requested to the worksheet: Dues to other organizations increased from \$50 to \$350 to cover mandatory membership in Sacramento Association of Museums (SAMS). Casey will find out how these dues are paid. Second change is an increase in Volunteer Recognitions from \$1,700 to \$1,800 to cover purchase of hour pins awarded to members. Alex King moved to approve the proposed 2013 budget as amended; seconded by Leslie Cooper. Motion carried.

STATE PARKS REPORT: **Casey Hayden** reported that the new State Parks Director is Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (retired). The vacant Superintendent position is currently being advertised. Casey will work on getting an estimate to repair the cane-bottomed chairs. He and a curator will go through the historic rooms after the first of the year to prioritize projects to be funded by CSCMVA. Lighting at both the Stanford Mansion and Governors' Mansion, plus the State Capitol, will be converted to LED bulbs sometime later this month.

BOOKSTORE REPORT: **Mary Geach** reported that Bookstore income for November was \$1,260.47 compared to \$985 for last year!

ANNUAL MEETING: **Diane Rich** reported that invitations to this meeting on January 24, 2013 were mailed to the membership on Friday, November 30th. All arrangements with Casa Gardens Restaurant are confirmed.

NEW BUSINESS: **Diane Rich** presented the Standing Rules which were subsequently reviewed by the Board, and changes were made to update in accordance with current procedures. A motion to approve the Standing Rules as changed was made by David Keck, seconded by Gary Stonehouse. Motion carried. Copies of the amended Standing Rules will be available as soon as changes are completed.

The review of the Long-Range plan is tabled until February 2013. This review is to be done by both the 2012 Board of Directors and the newly elected 2013 Board of Directors.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings normally held on the first Wednesday of the month. However, the January Board meeting is cancelled due to the Annual Meeting and election of new Board members on January 24, 2013.

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the **Clarion**, a card and flowers were sent to

Marita Martin on the passing of her husband, Art

Ron Lauchner with encouragement for heart bypass surgery performed in early December



If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact Scotty Hodges who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of the group. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.

Holiday Music Program

The mid-day Holiday music has been presented every day since December 1, and is regularly enjoyed by a number of visitors to the Capitol. Needless to say, our volunteers have enjoyed the concerts as well, whether serving as daily hosts/hostesses or as docents fulfilling responsibilities at the West Information Desk. If you have not already been able to attend, the concerts will continue through December 23 (Sunday), and our CSCMVA volunteers will be **the** entertainment on **Saturday, December 22**, when they lead a Rotunda Sing-Along.



The CSCMVA had an invitation this year to participate in the **Capitol Tree Lighting** ceremony which took place late on Wednesday, December 12. A number of volunteers participated, and Shelly was able to catch a few of them for a photo.



Christmas Carolers: Bob Dreyer, David Keck, Santa (aka Richard Redding), and Clem Dougherty
Strumming the guitar but out of the range of the photo is David Effinger.



Annual Meeting: January 24, 2013

The invitations have been mailed for the Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 24, 2013. It is an important CSCMVA meeting, as it includes an opportunity to review the past year's activities, honor our "retiring" Board members, elect three new Board members, and recognize the 2012 hours of service of members.

This year's event will be held at the Casa Garden Restaurant on Sutterville Road in Sacramento. The social time will begin at **11:30 AM** followed by a served lunch. Invitations request an **RSVP** by no later than **January 16** along with a choice of one of three entrees. If you have questions, please contact Diane Rich (916-421-1136) who is serving as Chairwoman of this special event.

The Casa Garden Restaurant is located adjacent to the Sacramento Children's Home – a comprehensive child and family service organization providing needed services to Sacramento's most vulnerable children and families for over 150 years. A portion of the proceeds from the cost of the meal go to ongoing support of the Home's important activity.

For those volunteers interested in seeing their lifetime hours as of October 31, 2012, Diane Rich has posted them on the bulletin board near the Volunteer sign-in desk.

Candidates for the Board of Directors:

The Nominating Committee, under the leadership of David Keck, Board member, met and has recommended a slate of three CSCMVA volunteers for election to the 2013 Board. They are **Connie Clark**, **Bob Dreyer**, and **Christine Tyler**.

In order for members to make an informed decision about future CSCMVA leadership, each of the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee has provided a brief biographical statement below:

Connie Clark: "My name is Connie Clark. I have been a volunteer and CSCMVA member since February 2006. I've spent more than 1,000 hours interpreting the rooms, giving mini tours, and participating in our historic re-enactment events. I am a member of the Costume Committee; and many of you ladies have costumes I have helped you create. Recently, I have had the pleasure of directing our history re-enactments.

"I am originally from Sandpoint, Idaho and attended the U of Idaho. I retired from the CA Office of State Publishing as senior estimator after 30 years in state service. I have one daughter, Stacy, who lives nearby. She and her husband have one daughter, Macey, who *really* is the best grandchild ever!



"I am running for the CSCMVA Board, because I see it as a vital connection between State Parks and our visitors. I recognize its importance and the importance of the decisions made on behalf of our volunteers and members. It would be my pleasure to serve on the Board."

Bob Dreyer: "Retirement opened up a world of options after my varied and long term 'working life.' I had been a soldier, a salesman, a federal employee, the Assistant Executive Director of a ballet



company, a professional in the field of speech pathology and audiology, a non-profit agency administrator and, at the end, a manager for the California Department of Public Health. During my 'working life' I was always active in community-based organizations and my children's activities (Little League, soccer, Boy Scouts, etc.).

"Having always been a student and a lover of history, I was interested when I saw the advertisement in the newspaper for volunteers for the CSCMVA and immediately applied to be part of the upcoming docent class. After my initial interview I was sure I had found an organization I could commit to and perhaps make a contribution to following some training and experience. The training we received was first class, and my mentor made me feel confident in my ability to interpret the Capitol for visitors. My wife always tells people that CSCMVA is the perfect place for me, because 'he gets to dress in costume and pontificate.' As a long time thespian and competitive speaker, I truly enjoy the 'Living History Days' produced by the Association, and I appreciate the hard work which goes into each presentation.

"In the almost three years I've been with the Association, I've been able to cultivate new friendships, participate in living history events, and show our beautiful capitol building to thousands of visitors. I look forward to many years with CSCMVA repaying those who helped me feel confident. I want to do this by passing on my enthusiasm for the capitol building to future classes of new docents and the visitors to our museum."

Christine Tyler: "I was born and raised in Hayward California. I am a fifth generation Californian on my mother's side and am a 4th generation Californian on my dad's side. I graduated from San Lorenzo High School, Chabot College, and Cal - State Hayward. (It is now called Cal-State University, East Bay.) I earned my teaching credential there and taught my first year at El Cerrito High School in 1970. I met my husband that year as well.



"We moved to the Sacramento Area in 1972, and I began teaching in the Washington Unified School District in West Sacramento. I was a Physical Education Teacher for 29 years, coached volleyball for 5 years and softball for 20 years. I went back to school while teaching and obtained my counseling credential and then became the head guidance counselor for River City High School for 7 more years before I retired. I really loved working with high school kids. (There was never a dull moment)

"We have three wonderful grown sons and 3 grandchildren (and one on the way). Since retiring, my husband and I have been traveling. We've been to China, Panama, Mexico, Hawaii, parts of Europe, the East Coast and many places here in California. We plan to do more.

"Besides volunteering here at the Capitol, I volunteer at the Casa Garden Restaurant as a server two days a month. I also take Photoshop classes and have been doing this for about 4 years. I also like to shop, make things, drive my 90 year old dad places, play with my iPad and play with my grandkids.

"I love working with people. I am a member of the class of 2010 and being at the Capitol lets me meet people from all over the world, and at the same time share one of California's best buildings. There is just something about walking into the Capitol with its high ceilings and arches and beautiful architecture. I just love it. I currently have been 'working' in the Treasurer's Office on Tuesday mornings. I have also been involved in some of the special history days. I enjoy working with all the volunteers. I've met a lot of wonderful people here. I will be happy to serve on the Board."

The **Volunteer Spotlight** is not included in this issue but will re-appear in the next issue of the **Clarion**, February 2013.

Special Feature: Did You Know?

By Clem Dougherty

.....that on February 25, 1851, a vigilance committee here in Sacramento took into custody a man accused of murder, tried him before a jury composed of vigilance committee members, convicted him, and hung him at the corner of K and 6th Sts.? His last words were "God have mercy on my soul." Yes it's true. The Sacramento vigilance committee was one of several such vigilance committees that sprang up throughout the state during the Gold Rush decade of the 1850s.

You may recall that the Gold Rush began on January 24, 1848, with Marshall's discovery of gold at Coloma on the American River, that California was organized and functioned as a state approximately 10 months prior to its admission to the Union on September 9, 1850, and that the first Legislature met in San Jose, the first state Capital, from December 15, 1849, to April 22, 1850, prior to California's admission to the Union on September 9, 1850.

What is not too well known is that one of the major problems facing the new state during the Gold Rush decade of the 1850s was lawlessness. It is estimated that in 1850 there were approximately 100,000 young men swarming all over the foothills of the Sierra in pursuit of gold. Gold Rush society was very transitory in that the gold seekers were here today and gone tomorrow. Without any strong law enforcement presence in the state and human nature being what it is, crime increased to such an extent by 1851 that the popular perception throughout the state was that crime was out of control. The newspapers of the state were strident in decrying the lawlessness sweeping the new state and vitriolic in blaming the newly established courts themselves as the principal reason for the state's inability to stop the increase in crime. Newspaper criticism largely engaged in generalities and called judges weak, vacillating, and culpable. Not only did the newspapers charge the courts with lax administration of justice but labeled them as protectors of villains and encouragers of crime.(see Daily Alta California, February 23-24, 1851; June 10 and 14, 1851; San Francisco Herald, March 4, 1851,found in 1Cal Reports 545, 547-548 (1851). As a result people lost confidence in the newly constituted courts and began the organization of vigilance committees to deal with the rising crime rate. In Sacramento The Transcript reported that after citizens had suffered attack upon attack, robbery upon robbery, and murder upon murder, the people saw how ineffective the courts were and, in self-defense, rose to preserve law and order.(see The Transcript, February 27, 1851). Thus, the popular perception was that where the state courts failed to control crime, the people had the innate right to bypass the newly established court system and to establish vigilance courts of their own.

Vigilance committees soon arose throughout the state, including San Francisco in 1851 and again in 1856 and rising up in such places as Sacramento, Stockton, Marysville, Nevada City, Mariposa, Sonora, and other locations. In Placerville, robberies and murders became such a problem that in the fall of 1849 aroused citizens flogged three men for crimes committed and then hung them on one of Placerville's trees. This incident is the origin of the name: "Hangtown." The site of one of the hangman's trees is located today at 305 Main Street in Placerville (see Douglas Kyle, editor: Historic Spots in California, 4th ed., p. 77)

There were many reasons why crime went out of control. First of all, blame should have been heaped not upon individual courts themselves but upon a court system designed by the Legislature that functioned well in an established, settled community but not well where society was so mobile, so fluid, and so chaotic as Gold Rush society. For instance, at first there were only 27 counties in California. The Legislature did not put a sitting Judge in each county with jurisdiction to try felonies committed in that county. Instead, the Legislature grouped several counties into separate districts with one judge traveling from one county to the next county within each district at various times of the year to try felony cases. As a result, witnesses and even defendants accused of crimes disappeared before the judge of the district showed up in that county to try the case.

Furthermore, an absence of funds to build jails and to pay law enforcement officers greatly contributed to the failure to control crime by the duly constituted authorities.

Complicating the matter further were nineteenth century concepts of justice that impeded the speedy prosecution of crimes. For instance, at that time every felony prosecution took two juries: a grand jury to begin the prosecution and a trial jury to decide ultimate guilt or innocence. Today as an alternative to an initial grand jury indictment the district attorney may proceed initially by a written information filed with the court to be followed later by a preliminary hearing. Grand jury indictment is only one way to commence felony prosecutions today.

Another example of a nineteenth century concept of justice impeding the speedy prosecution of a case lay in the matter of waiving the right to a jury trial in felony cases. Today a defendant may waive jury trial in a felony case and elect to be tried by a judge sitting without a jury. In the nineteenth century a defendant could not waive trial by jury in felony cases. As a result the time needed to impanel a jury created another built-in delay.

To sum up: the blame aimed at the courts themselves for the failure to control crime was largely misplaced. Instead, a faulty designed court system by the Legislature, nineteenth century concepts of justice, and the lack of money to build jails and pay law enforcement officers all combined to prevent a speedy and satisfactory administration of justice by the duly constituted courts/law enforcement authorities in Gold Rush California. Into the void sprang vigilance committees which would continue to function throughout the decade of the 1850s and would only stop for the most part when the gold-panning part of the Gold Rush ended in the 1860s.

(For a complete account of the rise of vigilantism in Gold Rush California, see [In Defense of the California Courts of 1850-1851](#) and the authorities cited therein by Clem Dougherty located in the Volunteer Association Library, Rm.-B-27, State Capitol Bldg.)

*(Editor's Note: The Special Features column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol or visits to other state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share experiences and/or researched information in this column. For inclusion in the **Clarion**, please send articles to Marti Dennis at mdennis1@att.net.)*

Upcoming Events:

December 1 – 23 – Holiday Music Program

December 22 – CSCMVA Sing-Along in the Rotunda

January 24, 2013 – Annual Meeting

**Please note the next issue of the *Clarion* will be published in early February 2013.
Happy Holidays, everyone!**

Volunteer Program website:

<http://capitolmuseum.tem.parks.ca.gov/volunteerprogram>

Capitol Museum website: <http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov/>

**Volunteer Coordinator: 324-2405
324-0333**

Tour Guide Office:

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day